

HOUSE BILL 3773
By Rinks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
relative to access to specialty care by means of
telemedicine.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

68-1-122.

(a) Subject to the appropriation of funds in the general appropriations act, the commissioner of health shall establish within the department a program to facilitate the rendering of specialty care in federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) in conjunction with the University of Tennessee Memphis Health Science Center (UTMHSC) by means of telemedicine. The purpose of the program is to increase access to specialty care for TennCare patients and the uninsured in rural and underserved areas.

(b) The department shall make grants and enter into agreements with these entities to fund the dissemination of appropriate program support resources and the acquisition and installation of all necessary on site equipment to enable the practice of telemedicine between the participating FQHCs and UTMHSC.

(c) The department shall enter into a management agreement for implementing this program with a nonprofit organization with knowledge of FQHCs in Tennessee whose mission is to provide information technology services and support these health centers.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.